(b) The allocations to States is made at Central Issue Price which are uniform throughout the country. The State Governments/UT Administrations can fix the end retail price taking into account incidental costs such as handling and transportation charges, margins to Fair Price Shops etc. over and above the Central Issue Price.

3804. [*Transferred to 27 March*, 1992.]

Need For Edible Oil

3805. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) what is the total value of edible oil imports at present;

(b) whether oil palm (palmolein) extracted from Palm could provide the answer to India's edible oil needs; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) The total value of edible oil imports in the oil year 1990-91 (Nov.-Oct.) was Rs. 79.33 crores.

(b) Yes, Madam.

(c) As against around 300—350 Kg oils per hectare in case of cultivated oilseeds, oil palm can commercially yield 3—5 MT of oils per hectare. 5.75 lakh hectares of land has been identified, by an expert committee of Government of India, to be suitable for oil palm plantation. On the assumption of 50% availability of land and 3 MT of oil per hectare the total availability of palm oil could be more than 8 lakh MT.

Production of Edible Oils

3806. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what percentage of the identified potential for the production of oils was exploited during 1991 and what are the reasons for non-recovery of the full potential ; and

(b) what measures have been taken by Government to remove the hurdles in the way of increasing production of solvent extracted oils to achieve the target, if any, during 1992 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) During the Oil-years (Nov.-Oct.) 1990-91, around 82% of the identified potential was exploited realising around 54 lakh MT of edible oils. The main reasons for non-recovery of the full potential in secondary sources are :

(i) Pre-ponderence of huller rice mill resulting in the loss of ricebran ;

(ii) Processing of under-corticated cotten seeds;

(iii) Using oilcakes for cattle feeds by the farmers and difficulty in availability of oilcake obtained by village ghanies scattered all over the country ; and

(iv) Difficulty in collection of oilseeds from inaccessible areas.

(b) The steps taken to remove hurdles in the way of increasing production of solvent extracted oils to achieve the target during 1992 are:

(1) Setting up of a Technology Mission on Oilseeds established in May, 1986, for harnessing the best of production, processing and management technologies.

(2) Intensification of research efforts for increasing the production of oilseeds.

(3) Increasing the areas under non-traditional oilseeds crops like soyabean and sunflower and exploitation of oilseed of tree and forest origin, rice-bran,etc.

(4) Setting up of neccssary processing and infrastructural facilities to keep a pace with the production programme of oilseeds.

(5) Award of funds for modification of hullers. Simultaneously Technology Mission on Oilseeds has also extended their support for providing funds to Solvent Extractors' Association of India for modification of hullers to get bran for extraction of oil.

(6) Identification of equipments for modernisation of processing units, custom duty concession on imports of certain equipments.

(7) Research and Development programmes undertaken by various institution for fuller exploitation of oil from oil bearing materials.